

First Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
9.17.12

BILL 3

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LLS NO. 13-0116.01 Bob Lackner x4350

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Lower North Fork Wildfire Commission

SHORT TITLE: "Wildfire Matters Review Committee"

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A PERMANENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**
102 **OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REVIEW MATTERS RELATING TO**
103 **WILDFIRES IN THE STATE.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

Lower North Fork Wildfire Commission. The bill creates the wildfire matters review committee as an interim committee of the general assembly (committee) to address wildfire prevention and mitigation and to review and propose legislation relating to such matters. The committee

*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

is required to meet at least once during the interim of each year to review and to propose legislation or other policy changes relating to wildfire prevention and mitigation and all related matters. The bill authorizes the committee to consult with experts in all fields relating to wildfire prevention and mitigation as may be necessary to achieve the committee's objectives. All personnel of any state agency or political subdivision of Colorado involved in wildfire prevention and mitigation, including the Colorado department of public safety and the Colorado state forest service, are required to cooperate with the committee and with any persons assisting the committee in carrying out its duties.

Membership of the committee consists of 6 members of the general assembly, equally divided between members of the house and senate. The bill specifies the manner in which the appointments are to be made and additional requirements relating to the service of members of the committee.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 16 to article 3 of title 2 as follows:

PART 16

WILDFIRE MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE

2-3-1601. Legislative declaration. (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS, DETERMINES, AND DECLARES THAT:

(a) WILDFIRES ARE A PART OF THE NATURAL CYCLE OF COLORADO'S FORESTS, YET INCREASINGLY POSE A SEVERE THREAT TO HUMAN LIFE AND PROPERTY;

(b) PEOPLE ARE ATTRACTED TO THE FOREST AND MOUNTAIN AREAS OF THE STATE AND INCREASINGLY CHOOSE TO MAKE THEIR HOMES IN WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE "WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE", WHERE WILDLAND AREAS MEET RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT;

(c) FOR MANY YEARS NOW, RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN NUMEROUS PARTS OF THE STATE ARE REGULARLY THREATENED BY A CLOSE PROXIMITY TO WILDFIRES AND, TRAGICALLY, DURING THE SPRING AND

1 SUMMER OF 2012, COLORADO WILDFIRES RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF LIFE
2 AND EXTENSIVE PROPERTY DAMAGE, INCLUDING THE DESTRUCTION OF
3 HOMES AFFECTING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE;

4 (d) SINCE WILDFIRES CAUSE ANNUAL HARM TO MANY AREAS OF
5 THE STATE AND THOSE RESIDING IN SUCH AREAS, WILDFIRE PREVENTION
6 AND MITIGATION IS A MATTER OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE THROUGHOUT
7 THE STATE AND AN ISSUE DEMANDING CRITICAL ATTENTION FROM THE
8 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON A REGULAR BASIS.

9 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THIS PART 16 IS TO PROVIDE A PERMANENT
10 INTERIM COMMITTEE AS A FORUM THROUGH WHICH THE GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY REVIEWS STATE POLICIES ADDRESSING WILDFIRE PREVENTION
12 AND MITIGATION AND THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION AND EXECUTION
13 OF SUCH POLICIES. IN CREATING A PERMANENT INTERIM COMMITTEE TO
14 ADDRESS MATTERS RELATING TO WILDFIRES, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
15 INTENDS THAT ISSUES RELATING TO WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND
16 MITIGATION RECEIVE SUFFICIENT LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY AND PUBLIC
17 PARTICIPATION.

18 **2-3-1602. Wildfire matters review committee - creation.**

19 (1) TO ADDRESS WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION AND TO REVIEW
20 AND PROPOSE LEGISLATION RELATING TO SUCH MATTERS, THE WILDFIRE
21 MATTERS REVIEW COMMITTEE IS HEREBY CREATED, AND IS REFERRED TO
22 IN THIS PART 16 AS THE "COMMITTEE". THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AT
23 THE CALL OF THE CHAIR AT LEAST ONCE DURING THE INTERIM OF EACH
24 YEAR TO REVIEW AND TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION OR OTHER POLICY
25 CHANGES RELATING TO WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION AND ALL
26 RELATED MATTERS. THE COMMITTEE MAY CONSULT WITH EXPERTS IN ALL
27 FIELDS RELATING TO WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION AS MAY BE

1 NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS PART 16. ALL
2 PERSONNEL OF ANY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF
3 COLORADO INVOLVED IN WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION,
4 INCLUDING THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE
5 COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE, SHALL COOPERATE WITH THE
6 COMMITTEE AND WITH ANY PERSONS ASSISTING THE COMMITTEE IN
7 CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

8 (2) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF SIX MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY SELECTED AS FOLLOWS:

10 (a) THREE MEMBERS FROM THE SENATE, TWO APPOINTED BY THE
11 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND ONE APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER
12 OF THE SENATE;

13 (b) THREE MEMBERS FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TWO
14 APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND ONE
15 APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES.

17 (3) APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL MAKE THEIR ORIGINAL
18 APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE NOT LATER THAN JULY 1, 2013. TERMS
19 OF SERVICE ON THE COMMITTEE ARE FOR TWO YEARS. THE TERMS OF
20 ORIGINAL APPOINTEES TO THE COMMITTEE TERMINATE ON THE CONVENING
21 DATE OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTIETH GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY. THEREAFTER, THE TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
23 TERMINATE ON THE CONVENING DATE OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF
24 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEXT FOLLOWING THEIR APPOINTMENT OR
25 REAPPOINTMENT, AND ALL SUBSEQUENT APPOINTMENTS OR
26 REAPPOINTMENTS ARE MADE AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER SUCH
27 CONVENING DATE. INCUMBENT MEMBERS MAY BE REAPPOINTED TO THE

1 COMMITTEE. THE PERSON MAKING THE ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT OR
2 REAPPOINTMENT SHALL FILL ANY VACANCY BY APPOINTMENT FOR THE
3 REMAINDER OF AN UNEXPIRED TERM. MEMBERS SERVE AT THE PLEASURE
4 OF THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY AND CONTINUE IN OFFICE UNTIL A
5 SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED, AS APPLICABLE.

6 (4) THE COMMITTEE SHALL SELECT A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FROM
7 AMONG ITS MEMBERSHIP AND PRESCRIBE ITS OWN RULES OF PROCEDURE.

8 (5) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SERVE WITHOUT
9 COMPENSATION; EXCEPT THAT EACH MEMBER IS ENTITLED TO BE
10 REIMBURSED FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE
11 PERFORMANCE OF HIS OR HER DUTIES AND RECEIVES THE SAME PER DIEM
12 AS OTHER MEMBERS OF INTERIM COMMITTEES IN ATTENDANCE AT
13 MEETINGS.

14 (6) EXISTING EMPLOYEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AGENCIES
15 SHALL PROVIDE ANY STAFF ASSISTANCE REQUIRED BY THE COMMITTEE
16 WITHIN EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS.

17 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
18 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
19 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.